

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS  
8:30 & 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
**Next Cornerstone deadline is December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
[www.rhumc.org](http://www.rhumc.org)

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## The Cornerstone

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church  
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
310-377-6771

**December 2013**

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### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 P.M.**

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR**  
and



**THE INNER CITY YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
OF LOS ANGELES**

PRESENT

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH, PARTS I & II**

**Charles Dickerson**  
Music Director and Conductor

A reception will be held immediately after the concert.

Tickets: \$10 per person. Open Seating.

Tickets may be purchased in the church office or at the table on the patio on December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. For further information, contact the Church Office at (310) 377-6771.



### *from the pastor*



It's funny. On the one hand, the month of December brings the calendar year to an end. On the other hand, Advent is the *beginning* of the Christian year. Maybe it isn't any wonder that our minds are headed in different directions during this season.

We have such high hopes. Thanksgiving with family. Kids out of school. Loved ones returning home. Beautiful music in the air. Favorite smells coming from the kitchen. Lights on the trees. Bells ringing outside the stores. It all brings us a sense of delight and wonder, and reminds us of all the other Christmases we've shared.

And then we head out to do a little Christmas shopping, only to find that every living person has decided to join us in the mall parking lot. That's a bit of a disappointment. And it turns out our cousins *can't* come out to see us this year, even though they promised. And the kids are home, but it's not like they ever look up from their tiny electronic devices except to argue. When do they go back to school? And *why* does the Christmas music have to start before Thanksgiving in the first place? By the time Christmas Eve arrives we'll all be sick of it.

We want to see friends, spend time with family, remember "the reason for the season," be kinder and gentler to everyone, eat lots of delicious food, not gain any weight, sing songs of joy and hope, make a difference to someone in need, find a perfect present for someone special, and do it all without going bankrupt or losing our minds. Is that too much to ask?

In Christ, God entered our world in a revolutionary new way. Rather than standing apart from us, outside the messiness of our lives, offering wisdom and direction from a safe distance, the birth of Jesus is God joining us in the joys and the struggles of every day. "God with us." Emmanuel. That is one of the cherished names for the One whose birth we anticipate once more.

It wasn't because the world was in such perfect balance that God chose to be with us in this new way. God knows it still isn't. Rather, it was out of compassion for those who still hold out the hope of a new day in this world, as well as for those who've given up completely.

Given the choice, we might wish that everything just worked the way it's supposed to. But since that doesn't seem to be happening any time soon, we give thanks that God keeps working to bring us hope in unexpected ways.

That night in Bethlehem, God came to us in a time and place almost no one expected. Small, weak and vulnerable – that was not the Messiah they were looking for. It makes me wonder, given God's track record, where the story of Christ is taking place this year that we don't see. Maybe in that parking lot outside Toys R Us. Maybe in a village in the Philippines. Maybe even in our own living room. That *would* be surprising. But it's Advent, a time of new hope, new life, new beginnings. Stranger things have happened.

Grace and peace,

*Jonathan*

## News from the Missions Committee

### A Moooo-ving Experience!

Thank you, thank you, and thank you! "Heifer Plus" Sunday was a very successful and fun event. Did you see the live bunnies? Congregation members were (again!) very generous in donating to Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, and the church's Missions work around the world. More than \$10,000 was collected, and additional contributions are still expected to arrive over the next couple of weeks.

### United Methodist Missionary Visit . . .

Paul Jeffrey joined us from his most recent travels in Egypt on 11/13. He shared an 18-minute video presentation of his work and adventures, and then answered questions from the audience. Attendees left feeling inspired and better informed about the ways mission work is impacting the world. If you missed the evening, you can still catch up on his latest journeys at <http://www.kairosphotos.com/blog/>.

### Trek to the Tree

Beginning Sunday, 12/1, and continuing on Sundays 12/8 and 12/15, we will have the opportunity to brighten the Christmas for children at Toberman Neighborhood Center in San Pedro. Look for tags on the tree in the Narthex and visit our volunteers at the tables to sign up to donate a gift.



### *Christmas Eve Worship Services*

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Services – Carols & Nativity
- 8:00 p.m. A Musical Christmas with 3<sup>rd</sup> Service Ensemble
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight, Carols, and Communion

There will not be a worship service on Christmas Day.

## UMW – Mini Mission Market

Help United Methodist Women support missions! On **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, the Christmas Mini Market will be open after the morning services. Come and pick up more pickles, jams, baked goodies, homemade afghans, and other homemade items. All monies from the sale will go to the mission projects supported by UMW.

***And a word from the congregation about holiday traditions***...As Rachel Stam, Director of Family Ministries, mentioned in the last issue of Cornerstone, Rachel's Thanksgiving tradition is running the Turkey Trot. Here are some of your traditions...Georgina Mueller's family Christmas tradition is to talk about each special ornament as they put them on their Christmas tree. Ken Ueda reminisced about a special New Year's tradition growing up in Hawaii. Here is an excerpt from his lovely letter –

“As you may know, I grew up in Kauai, Hawaii. A few months prior to the New Year, my dad would take me with him to harvest a tree to make four mallets to pound mochi. Mochi is a steamed glutinous rice cake, bland in taste and very sticky in texture. Mochi is as indispensable for New Year's Day as cranberry sauce and turkey are for Thanksgiving. The weekend before Christmas we would pound the mochi.

Mochi, in Japanese tradition, is a food that represents longevity. New Year's breakfast is o-zoni. Also eaten are satoimo, a kind of dry land taro; daikon, a large white radish (turnip); and kombu, a flat dried seaweed (kelp).

The satoimo (potato), is believed to have the power to drive off evil spirits. The daikon (radish) has its roots firmly in the soil, meaning a firm family foundation. The kombu (kelp) is auspicious because it forms the latter part of the word yorokobu to be happy or glad. With the breakfast o-zoni as the first meal of the New Year, we hope to realize the happy dreams that the ingredients signify.”

Thank you for sharing and Merry Christmas from Family Ministries!



### **POINSETTIAS FOR SANCTUARY AT CHRISTMAS TIME**

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the church for our Christmas Worship Services. You may place your order “In Honor of...”, “In Memory of...” or “To the Glory of God.”

**THE LAST DAY TO ORDER PLANTS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

After the **last** Christmas Eve Service, you may pick up the plants you ordered.

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias will be for sale on Sundays December 1<sup>st</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please make your check payable to RHUMC in the amount of \$12.00 per plant. Fill out the form and turn it in to the office or to the poinsettia table on the patio. If you have any questions, call the church office at 310-377-6771.



**AND DON'T FORGET**...The Worship Committee is looking for youth and adult volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas. We are decorating the Narthex on 11/30 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; the sanctuary on 12/7 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; and displaying the poinsettias on 12/21 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Help is welcome!



## Children's Ministries

### A Great Place to Grow

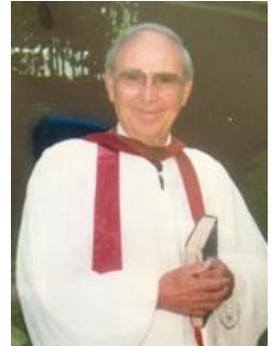
Lisa Williams  
Director of Children's Ministries

#### *“Home”*

The year was 1996. Steven was just a baby. My parents visited as much as they could to see their new grandson.

One Saturday afternoon my dad said, “Lisa, there is a church close by. I know the preacher’s husband, Bob Arnott, he teaches at the School of Theology in Claremont. I think we should go find it.” So off we went to find a church. We didn’t have an address or a real sense of where the church was but we headed up the hill and found RHUMC.

We got out of the car, walked the campus and found the Sanctuary doors open. We went inside. As we looked around my dad said, “Lisa, you will always find a home here.”



My dad passed away last month after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s. My dad was a hardworking, kind, gentle man who loved life. He had a “let’s go” spirit. I am grateful to him for telling me that Saturday afternoon “let’s go find that church.”

RHUMC quickly became our home. I am grateful to all of you who make it such a great place to be.

Grace & Peace,  
Lisa

### Family Christmas Eve Service – 4:00 p.m.

This is a fun and active service where the children tell the story of Jesus’ birth through scripture and song. We practice on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome ages 3 and up to participate at the practice and on Christmas Eve. For questions, call Lisa Williams in the church office.



### **Preschool Christmas Pageant**

*Wednesday, December 18  
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.*



### **All Church Christmas Party**

**Wednesday, December 11  
3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
Wesley Hall



We will make Christmas ornaments, holiday crafts & share time with a special visitor!

Donations welcome

### **KidZone** winter camp presents...



January 2-3, 2014  
9:00am-4:00pm

Early and late care available

Art, Science, Sports, Cooking

Kid Zone  
310-377-7302



Kidzone.MidZone@gmail.com

## Junior High Logos – Flying high at Sky Zone!



### Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

Suellen Fung and I wish to express our gratitude to everyone who helped make the Thanksgiving Dinner possible. It takes a lot of hands to set up and decorate Wesley Hall for the dinner, as well as many more hands to prepare the meal, organize the buffet lines, as well as to clean up when all is done. Among those who made it all possible were Dale and Linda Gehr, Clarence Fung, Brendon Fung, Shirley Farley, Shirley Fehrman, Doug Kendle, Fletcher Larson, Diana Davis, Emily Howard, Steve McCall, Maureen Banasky, Curt Wuestenhagen, Jim Showalter, Oren Sheldon, Bill and Shirley Bails, Bob & Shirley Bailiff, Kathy Platnick, Lois Moore, Michie Hirooka, Linda Duncan, Cindy O'Hara, Sally Whitney, Leonard and Rita Guiton, Sam and Carolyn Melvin, Phyllis Goetz, Sharon Ratterree, Mark Raggio, Tom Coleman, Larry and Tami Kittiver, Connie Martin, Frances Grosso, Kathy Johnson and Mary Larson.

Chuck Dickerson opened up the dinner with his usual good sense of humor and welcomed our District Superintendent, Kathey Wilborn. Lisa Williams gave a lovely blessing and we had a great bunch of junior and senior high schoolers under the direction of Evan Griffith serving the delicious dinner in the buffet lines. James Calhoun gave a lovely concert in the Sanctuary demonstrating the versatility of our new organ. Over \$2,500.00 was raised for next year's Sierra Service Project and the leftover food (there was not much!!) went to the Food Pantry at St. Paul's. Indeed, "God's Blessings Grow When They Are Shared" was a fitting tribute to a wonderful evening.

Doug Kemps and Suellen Fung  
Co-Chairs for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

P.S. Many of you requested the Corn Pudding Recipe, so here it is:

### CORN PUDDING

#### INGREDIENTS:

4 Eggs, beaten	1/2 Cup Flour
1 Stick Butter, melted	Pinch Cayenne
1 Cup Heavy Cream	2 (16 Oz.) Cans Creamed Corn
1 Teaspoon Salt	2 (10 Oz.) Boxes, Corn Niblets, frozen
1/3 Cup Sugar	

SERVINGS: 10

- Preheat oven to 350 Degrees;
- In a bowl, mix together the eggs, butter, cream, salt, sugar, flour and cayenne;
- Gently mix in the creamed corn;
- Add the semi-thawed niblets, taking care not to crush the kernels;
- Pour into an ungreased Pyrex Dish;
- Bake for one hour (check the jiggle) or until top is golden and the custard is set.  
(provided by Ann Ellerman from the Blue Willow Inn Cookbook)

## Basketball Update

*"A Christmas shopper's complaint is one of long-standing." ~ Jay Leno*

Our dates and times for December are:

Mon., Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6-8 pm	Sat., Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2-4 pm
Mon., Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Dec 12 <sup>th</sup> , 6-8 pm	Sat., Dec 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2-4 pm
Mon., Dec 16 <sup>th</sup> , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> , 6-8 pm	Sat., Dec 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2-4 pm
Mon., Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Dec 26 <sup>th</sup> , 6-8 pm	Sat., Dec 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2-4 pm
Mon., Dec 30 <sup>th</sup> , 6-8 pm		



If you would like to be sent reminders/updates regarding our schedule via email, please forward your email address to John Kwan at [john@rhunc.org](mailto:john@rhunc.org). We look forward to seeing you there!



Completed **Club Maintenance** jobs included putting a loose cable on a Wesley Hall basketball backboard back on track and determining if a damaged pulley should be replaced, removing shelving from the Education Office, modifying the shelving and reinstalling it in the storage area in the upper part of the Sanctuary, repairing and repainting the drywall in part of the Education Office, cleaning ventilation grills in Wesley Hall, repairing the door latch of the trash bin enclosure, sweeping and water blasting cobwebs and dirt from some of the exterior walls of the Office Building, Wesley Hall and the Sanctuary, trimming low hanging branches in the Parking Lot, and determining that defective sprinkler heads were the cause of the furniture in the Meditation Garden being frequently wet. Those who participated in all these activities were Bill Bails, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Yasuko Martin, Don Pedersen, Oren Sheldon, Jim Showalter, and two very welcome first-time helpers, Rick Mitchell and Eric Rasmussen.

There will be no Club Maintenance activity in December as most of those involved in Club Maintenance will be busy with decorating and preparing for all of the upcoming events of the Christmas season. The next Club Maintenance work party will start at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, January 11, 2014**. Your help would be very much appreciated.

***Sad but True!***

On **Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**, the giant narthex tree will be taken down at 8:00 a.m. We could use your help! Please come with your chain saw.

On **Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**, all Christmas decorations will be taken down after the 10:00 a.m. service. Please stay and help! Even 15 – 20 minutes would be a huge help! We'll be completely done in 45 minutes.



***Family Ministries***  
***Rachel Stam***  
***Director of Family Ministries***

**The Purposeful Readers**

To avoid the hussle and bustle of the holidays, the Purposeful Readers will next meet on **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room to discuss Sherry Turkle's *Alone Together*. Amazon.com wrote, "Technology has become the architect of our intimacies. Online, we fall prey to the illusion of companionship, gathering thousands of Twitter and Facebook friends and confusing tweets and wall posts with authentic communication. But, as MIT technology and society specialist Sherry Turkle argues, this relentless connection leads to a new solitude. As technology ramps up, our emotional lives ramp down. *Alone Together* is the result of Turkle's nearly fifteen-year exploration of our lives on the digital terrain. Based on hundreds of interviews, it describes new unsettling relationships between friends, lovers, parents, and children, and new instabilities in how we understand privacy and community, intimacy and solitude."

**Parents "Day" Out**

Do you need some kid-free Christmas shopping time? Maybe you'd like to take a little breather during the busy holiday season. On **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., we are offering a safe and fun day for your kids filled with crafts, games, movies and much more! A pizza lunch will be provided. Space is limited and registration will end on December 9<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to sign up early!

- Who: Infants to Fifth Graders
- Cost: \$25 per child/\$5 for each additional child
- Registration: Email [familyministries@rhumc.org](mailto:familyministries@rhumc.org) with your child's name and ages. You can also call the Family Ministries office at (310) 377-6771, ext. 105.

**Lattes on Location** - Over 150 specialty drinks were served by Lattes on Location during Heifer Plus/Mission Market Sunday. Thank you for coming!





***Health & Wellness***  
***Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN***  
***Parish Nurse***

*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”  
 Psalm 133:1 (NIV)*

**Walking/Hiking Group:** On November 19<sup>th</sup>, eighteen of us had a wonderful time walking through the Botanic garden and getting to know each other better.

**NEXT,** join us for a walk on Oceanfront Park Trail in Rancho Palos Verdes on **Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>,** at 10:00 a.m., at the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. and Palos Verdes Drive West. The trail is about a mile long, with scenic ocean views. If time permits, we may also



decide to walk across the street to Pointe Vicente Interpretive Center. Park in the Golden Cove Shopping Center and meet there in front of the Starbucks. At the end of the walk, we can enjoy a Starbucks beverage together. If it is raining at the time of the walk, we will postpone the excursion.



**Emergency information BRACELET:** Marian Komori, former Parish Nurse, recommended this. You can wear this durable ID bracelet which contains important contact and/or medical information while running, bicycling, or swimming. Check out [www.roadid.com](http://www.roadid.com).

**Equipment:** If you would like to borrow a wheel chair, walker or commode, please contact Annette Matsuda or the church office to make arrangements to pick up your equipment.

For questions, contact Annette Matsuda, Parish Nurse, at 310-618-8122 or [annettematsuda@gmail.com](mailto:annettematsuda@gmail.com).

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Assoc. Pastor	John Kwan	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Children’s Min. & Kid/Mid Zone Dir.	Lisa Williams	3 <sup>rd</sup> Service Ensemble	Patti MacLeod
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Admin Asst. to Pastor	Michele Nelson
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Church Office Admin	Peggy Roulette
Jr. High Youth	John Kwan	Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
Senior High Youth	Evan Griffiths	Bookkeeper/Admin Asst	Nicole Lowery Zakman
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Minerva Carcaño
Fax Line	310-544-4123	District Superintendent	Kathey Wilborn
Web Site	<a href="http://www.rhumc.org">www.rhumc.org</a>		